

## REPORT.

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THE Minority of the Select Committee appointed under the resolutions of the House of Delegates, adopted by unanimous vote on the 10th day of January last, dissenting from the course pursued by the majority, and objecting to the report submitted by them, most respectfully beg leave to submit on their part the following report:

They desire in the first place to set forth in terms the resolutions under which the Committee was appointed, which, in their view, prescribes with sufficient distinctness and precision the duties to be performed by the Committee, particularly when considered in connection with the order of the House subsequently adopted, enlarging the powers of the Committee and pointing to the mode of performing their before-specified duties. Those resolutions are in these words:

"Resolved, That so much of the Governor's Message as relates to secret political societies be referred to a Select Committee of Five, with instructions to inquire and report, whether *any* and what secret political societies are known to exist in this State; whether any political society, secret or open, is known to encourage or pursue 'purposes which tend to the subversion of the well-established and deeply cherished principles of our Government;' whether any and what society, or portion of the people of this State, or any of the United States, have introduced 'religious issues into the field of political agitation;' and that the Committee be also instructed to ascertain, as far as may be within their power, what is the character and import of the secrets which are supposed to be held or maintained by such societies, if any such should be found to exist; and that the Committee use its endeavors to obtain, *if possible*, a statement or description of the principles, objects and purposes of such societies, and report the same to this House, with such measures as they may deem necessary for restraining such societies from violating the 'letter and spirit' either of the Federal Constitution or the Constitution of this State.

"Resolved, That the Committee be authorized to respectfully request the Governor to communicate to them any information he may possess in regard to such societies, al-